

branches rather than herbage as the coppicing has been long-neglected, leading to excessive shade as far as ground flora is concerned over much of the wood. To find *S. klapeleki* in Essex under the above circumstances supports the notion that it is an overlooked native species. As more records become available, its habits and habitat associations should become deducible.

My thanks are given to Colin Plant for checking and identifying my lacewings and Nick Evans, London Borough of Waltham Forest ecologist for commissioning the survey.— DAN HACKETT, 3 Bryanstone Road, Crouch End, London N8 8TN (E-mail: Daniel@dhackett.fsnet.co.uk).

### Early Red Admiral

An active Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* (L.) was seen on 26 February 2000 on Alderley Edge in Cheshire (grid reference SJ 8577), in bright sunshine. Considering the early date and that the butterfly was abundant on Alderley Edge during October 1999, this butterfly has very possibly over-wintered. A number of old, hollowed-out oaks line the sheltered sloping path along which it was seen and may well have provided it with an over-wintering site.— R. L. H. DENNIS, 4 Fairfax drive, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 6EY.

### First Millennium butterflies?

My wife saw a Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* (L.) in central Exeter on 5 January 2000 which I thought was a good candidate for the first Millennium butterfly (on the same day, I also found eggs of the Brown Hairstreak butterfly on two new tetrads, at grid references SX 9698 and 9597). However, this has been eclipsed by my friend Colin White who saw a Peacock *Inachis io* (L.) on the beach at Seaton, Cornwall (SX 300542) at 12.15pm on 1 January 2000.

My last adult butterfly of the old millennium was a Red Admiral on 1 December. Brown Hairstreak eggs were found in three new tetrads on 16 December (unfortunately, the last opportunity that I had for searching for them in 1999).

Any challengers? - ROGER BRISTOW, Davidsland, Copplestone, Devon EX17 5NX.

### Millennial moths

Curious to see which species would be my last of the old millennium, I put my trap out on New Year's Eve 1999 and was surprised in the morning to find in it a single specimen of Silver Y *Autograph gamma* (L.). I was even more surprised the following morning to find that my first species of the new millennium was Light Arches *Apamea lithoxylaea* (D. & S.), a moth I do not usually see until the end of May. Both moths were accompanied by several specimens of *Epiphyas postvittana* (Walk.) and *Udea ferrugalis* (Hb.), but I have come to expect to see those two species at any time of year.— P. D. M. COSTEN, La Broderie, La Claire Mare, St Peters, Guernsey GY7 9QA.